



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
Rm. 152 Federal Building • 100 Centennial Mall North • Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone: (402) 437-5563 • Toll Free: (800) 670-6553 • Fax: (402) 437-5408 • TDY: (402) 437-5093 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne>

Vicki Schurman (402) 437-5563

CONGRESSMAN SMITH AND USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT DELIVER FUNDS TO RECIPIENTS IN BOX BUTTE AND DAWES COUNTIES

CHADRON, Neb., October 27, 2008 – United States Congressman Adrian Smith and USDA Rural Development Nebraska State Director Scot Blehm presented ceremonial checks today totaling \$3,013,580. The funds will increase energy efficiency and provided for homeownership.

“Nebraska has long been known as the home of the Good Life,” Smith said. “The future of our rural communities will be formed by the hard work and innovation of our community leaders. These projects will help strengthen our communities, and I commend all involved for their efforts to improve Nebraska.”

Energy Grant Recipient:

Chadrad Communications-Chadron-\$5,548 for HVAC upgrade.

In Fiscal Year 2008, Box Butte and Dawes Counties saw 39 households become homeowners (28-Box Butte) (11-Dawes) through \$3,008,032 in guaranteed loans. Local guaranteed rural housing lenders who helped to achieve this accomplishment were recognized: **First National Bank of Omaha, First National Bank Chadron, and Bank of the West**. Through the Guaranteed Rural Housing Loan program, private lending institutions provide the funds which are guaranteed by the federal government.

Also recognized was **High Plains Community Development** who was instrumental to the guaranteed rural housing activity through homebuyer education and closing costs/down payment assistance.

“USDA Rural Development is committed to delivering the funding needed to help rural communities to succeed and remain strong,” stated Blehm. “We are pleased to report a record year in project funding which means more dollars pumped into Nebraska to keep its’ rural communities viable. I applaud the recipients here today and their active participation in utilizing and securing the funding needed.”

In Fiscal Year 2008, USDA Rural Development delivered more than \$189.8 million to rural Nebraska. Housing funds delivered totaled \$70.6 million, community facilities \$11 million, utilities \$22.4 million, business \$18.9 million, telecommunications \$51.3 million and electric \$15.6 million. Contact USDA Rural Development (402) 437-5551, toll free 800-670-6553, or (402) 437-5093 (TDY).

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

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